

REMARKS

Claims 10-13, 17-20, 24-27 and 31-41 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a laser-welded composite part in which a plastic pipe is connected to another plastic part, where the other plastic part has at least one nipple which is provided for the connection to the pipe. See Claims 10, 17, 24 and 31.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Savitski et al. in view of Fischerkeller et al. is respectfully traversed.

Savitski et al. disclose the simultaneous production of lap and butt joints in order to join plastic materials. See the Abstract and column 1, lines 14-20. The components are fused together to simultaneously form the lap and butt joints by the heat produced by applying radiation to the components. See column 1, lines 18-20. As the Examiner recognizes, Savitski et al. fail to disclose a nipple which is provided on the other plastic pipe for the connection to the pipe.

Fischerkeller et al. disclose a fastening device for attaching a fuel line to a connecting piece. See the Abstract. The fastening device contains a connector (10) that is alleged by the Office to correspond to the nipple recited in the claims.

The Office simply states that “it would have been obvious...to provide the other plastic part of Savitski with at one nipple, in light of the teaching of Fischerkeller, in order to connect the other plastic part to the pipe.” See the Office Action dated December 4, 2006 at the paragraph bridging pages 3-4. No additional rationale was provided.

That statement ignores the fact that Savitski et al. explicitly disclose a way to connect the component parts. The reference discloses that radiating the components generates heat which fuses the components with the simultaneous production of the butt and lap joints. Therefore, a nipple is not required. For that reason, one would not be motivated to modify the device described by Savitski et al. to include a nipple. Accordingly, the claimed composite part is not obvious over the combination of Savitski et al. and Fischerkeller et al. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

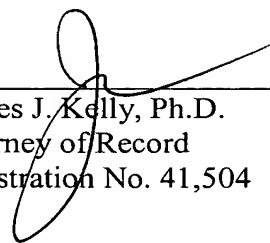
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 41,504